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27 March 1956

THRU

Chief, St/I/R  
Chief, D/S

Chief, S/TR

Intelligence Requirements on Soviet Water Transport Costs and Freight Rates

Background

Analysis of Soviet water transport costs and rates is of continuing importance to this office. Data on costs and rates are useful in measuring capacity against demand and in determining the effectiveness and implications of Soviet transport policy.

Requirements

It is requested that intelligence on Soviet water transport costs and rates beginning with the year 1951 be secured in accordance with the following format, insofar as possible. Where substitutions or estimates are made, please indicate. Distinguish clearly between cost data and rate data. It is requested that all answers be documented; cite sources by title, place of publication; date, page number, security classification. Cite estimates as such, giving methodology used for computing estimate.

1. What is the average cost in kopecks per passenger kilometer and ton kilometer (TKM) for river transport in the USSR. (Computed by dividing total cost of freights or passenger transport, according to Soviet practices, by total passenger kilometers or ton kilometers.)
2. What are the average passenger and freight rates for river transport? (Computed by dividing passenger and freight operating revenues, according to Soviet practices, by total passenger kilometers and ton kilometers.)
3. What is the average cost and average revenue per TKM for transport of: towed (rafted) lumber, lumber carried in ships, carried in barges. Give tonnage hauled and average length of haul for each of the three categories of cargo.
4. What is the average cost and average freight revenue per TKM for: grain towed in barges, carried in self-propelled vessels, carried in self-propelled barges. Give tonnage hauled and average length of haul for each category of traffic.

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5. Give data as requested in 4 above for coal, building materials (specify which commodities), petroleum and general cargo.

6. If any cost or rate data for commodities listed above are based upon a specific river, system or area, rather than upon overall averages, please indicate.

7. If cost or rate data for commodities listed in 3 through 5 above are known to vary from one river system or area to another, please note the differences and identify the area to which the rates apply.

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Suggested Source - OO/C, Attention, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

Degree of Need - Routine

**Distribution:**

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